



SPRING 2019

PROTECTING THE LIVES, SAFETY, PROPERTY, AND ENVIRONMENT OF ALL PERSONS IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS WE SERVE.

HOT TOPIC

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR RURAL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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RURAL FACTS OF LIFE - JEFF PRECHEL, FIRE MARSHAL

The 2018 wildfire season was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season on record in California, with a total of 8,527 fires burning an area of 1,893,913 acres, and resulting in over 100 fatalities. Concurrently, the cost of fighting wildfires in Oregon reached an all-time high of \$514.6 million. Oregon had a total of 1,880 fires that burned 846,411 acres or 1,322 square miles. Although the snow pack in Oregon has been higher than average, the National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for the Pacific Northwest forecasts warmer than average conditions through the spring, with normal significant wildland fire potential.

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has declared that updates to the Wildland Urban Interface Program are a strategic priority for 2019. The OSFM has partnerships with Keep Oregon Green and Oregon Department of Forestry to assist with the prevention components of the wildland urban interface (WUI), as well as a listening tour among the Oregon fire chiefs in high fire-risk areas to determine additional fire prevention needs. The OSFM and the Oregon Building Codes Division (BCD) are also exploring new fire and building code adoptions for future construction in the WUI environment.

New fire and building codes are typically the result of persistent life safety issues that need to be addressed to benefit the community as a whole. There is a direct correlation between the number of WUI residents and the number of wildland fires. Human activity caused 65% of the Oregon wildfires in 2018. Pragmatically, the statistics demonstrate that we are beyond the “if” it will happen, and we must prepare for “when” it happens. Every rural resident must take the necessary steps to protect their property and their family. In past Hot Topics newsletters we have discussed mitigation methods such as defensible space and preparing for evacuation. This year we will review some of the prevention and self-help concepts, and then focus on the evacuation process itself.



ALL DISASTERS ARE LOCAL - DAVE BUSBY, FIRE EMERGENCY PLANNING MANAGER

Recent disasters have again demonstrated the concept that all disasters are local. After-Action Reports from the Tubbs Fire in Sonoma County indicated most community members were notified of the fire by other neighbors (at 3 in the morning). One of the hurricane lessons learned was of the effectiveness of the “Cajun Navy” saving neighbors in the ensuing floods. As planners, we know there are not enough responders to support the needs of the entire community during a large scale disaster. It is not in the budget, and it never will be!

We are encouraging community members to become more resilient. Homeowners in Wildland Urban Interface areas need to adopt a defensible space program, securing their perimeter and building an effective defensible area around their home. Neighborhood Associations focused on helping each other can make an impact.

Preparedness starts with the individual, then the family, then the neighborhood. In Oregon, the state Office of Emergency Management has adopted a 2 Weeks Ready program. The reality is, in a major disaster we need community members to develop their own plan to be able to support themselves with essentials for the first two weeks. We (County and City leaders) will be doing *everything in our power* to get essential survival materials here as quickly as possible, but having the community prepared will limit the overall impact of the disaster, and quicken the recovery process.

We have some great groups out there! Community Emergency Response Team is a concept developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department after an earthquake in the 1980’s. They realized they were not staffed well enough to support all the needs of the community in a disaster. They began a simple program to educate volunteers on basic first aid, light search and rescue, disaster preparedness, communications, and psychological impacts. Our Benton County group meets monthly at the Fire Training Center, and has four academies to train new volunteers scheduled for 2019.

“...in a major disaster we need community members to develop their own plan to be able to support themselves with essentials for the first two weeks.”



The “Community Organizations Active in Disaster” is another way that businesses and emergency planners work together to help each other. From supporting victim evacuation (with a 4 Wheel Drive Club), food and firewood distribution, to assistance clearing roads post-disaster, this is a group that is all volunteers that know we will all be counting on each other during a very difficult situation.

There are lots of great things happening here in the City of Corvallis and Benton County to get us all focused on preparedness. If you need help getting your personal or family plan going; finding or establishing a Neighborhood Association; or just want to know how to best help the community, please reach out to me. I would love to hear from you!

Dave.busby@corvallisoregon.gov

PREPARATION LEADS TO MINAMILIZED RISK IN REMOTE AREAS - JIM PATTON, FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER

You have no doubt read many articles on how to prevent fires and protect against other dangers in remote and wildland urban interface areas. Hopefully you have chosen to take that advice to heart and made meaningful changes to your property and family emergency planning procedures.

With the apparent climate changes that have been occurring now for several years and the expectation that these changes will continue, resulting in dryer conditions and elevated risks to your property, land and even your personal safety, isn’t it time you take these warnings to the next level, before.....

Preparing for a possible emergency situation can literally make the difference between a minimal loss and losing everything you own to include your very lives. Hopefully we will never experience the kind of fire or other disaster that our neighbors to

PREPARATION LEADS TO MINAMILIZED RISK IN REMOTE AREAS CONT.

the south continue to experience, but one thing is for certain – we are NOT guaranteed a bad situation will never occur to any of us. With that in mind, a few simple tasks can truly make a difference and should provide us a greater peace of mind in the future.

Here are a few things you can do in advance to help reduce the risk, damage and threat to life from fire, security or disaster. Please give them serious consideration and spend some time implementing them as a family:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms outside every sleeping area of the home, on every level AND inside each bedroom. Consider installing a “SMART” smoke alarm that can connect to your home security system or mobile device so if you are away and your detector activates you can have a fire engine or neighbor dispatched to investigate.
- Consider installing an inexpensive wireless camera system inside your home so you can keep an eye on what’s going on while you are away. Most devastating fires occur at night or while residents are away from their house. These cameras can be easily installed by the homeowner and only need an outlet and wireless network to function. You don’t have to subscribe to an off-site monitoring company although that is recommended.
- Look into installing a residential fire sprinkler system equipped with a small (in most cases a 300 gallon supply tank) and modest water pump. Heads can be installed almost invisibly and you will most likely receive a significant reduction in your homeowner’s insurance premium – not to mention the peace of mind knowing your home is protected 24 hours a day. Water damage is significantly less destructive and expensive as fire or smoke damage and you can receive an immediate notification if your system activates.
- Install and maintain fire extinguishers in your property. At least one 2 ½ - 5 pound ABC fire extinguisher mounted in the kitchen is sufficient. Additional extinguishers can be installed on every level of the home, in the garage, barn and shop.
- Keep a 50-100 foot length of garden hose with a nozzle attached to every hose bib on your house during the dryer times of the year. Remove them only when the threat of freezing approaches.
- Have a high quality first aid kit available and visible and ensure all adult family members have a basic understanding of general first aid procedures. Consider purchasing an AED if there are potential heart related concerns with any member of the family - make sure everyone knows how to use the device and train on it regularly.
- Ensure you have clearly posted your address numbers out at the street so emergency crews can find you quickly. Reflective or lighted address numbers are best. Numbers should be at least 4-6” in height.
- Maintain your emergency vehicle access to your property at all times. An all-weather 20’ drive is best with at least 13’-6” of vertical clearance. If your driveway is longer than 150’ to your property than an approved turn-around should be provided. Contact the Corvallis Fire Department for additional guidance on turn-around options.
- As always, provide and maintain a defensible space around your property clear of combustible vegetation. Call the Corvallis Fire Department and request a representative come out to perform an assessment of your property, or go to: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA> for more information.
- Purchase a fireproof safe to protect your valuables from theft or fire. Make sure the safe meets UL certification for fire resistance. Consider placing a copy of your will and other important documents at an alternate location.



PREPARATION LEADS TO MINAMILIZED RISK IN REMOTE AREAS CONT.

- Have a solid relationship with your neighbors so you can share with them when you are out of town and where you can be reached in an emergency. You can do this easily via email or text. You can do the same for them.
- Make sure you conduct a 100% check of ALL doors and windows and other access points prior to leaving your home for more than 24 hours. Consider a monitored security system. Insurance breaks may be available to help off-set this expense.
- Unplug all unnecessary appliances and close all doors prior to leaving your home for an extended prior of time. Also, make sure heaters are clear of combustibile material. Maintain a minimum of 40 degrees in the home during the potential freezing periods of the year.

This may sound like a lot of work, but once you get everything in place and after a couple times going through the drill it will become second nature. While insurance may cover replacing most of your stuff it can't replace the irreplaceable (old photos, framed family photos, family heirlooms, etc.), not to mention the mental stress and inconvenience of the restoration and restoral process. We never know when disaster may strike - As one who has observed significant family loss now for over 35 years as part of my job as a fire prevention officer, I can tell you with a little bit of effort and preparation you can truly minimize the damage before disaster strikes.... Do it for those you love!

EVACUATION PLANNING IN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE - JEFF PRECHEL, FIRE MARSHAL & MATT ASHLAND, FIRE PREVENTION ASSISTANT

Evacuations during wildfires or other natural disasters can involve large and somewhat unpredictable numbers of private citizens, both informed and uninformed, traveling largely in private vehicles. An evacuation is often an immediate, or nearly immediate, event and successful outcomes depend on careful prior planning, proper notification, and a safe and timely community response.

Initially, rural residents will need to be self-sufficient and make some critical decisions with limited information. In the 2018 issue of Hot Topics we discussed preparing your "to-go" bag. It should be easily accessible and filled with the essential items needed to help your family evacuate your home for a period of three to seven days. Now that your to-go bag is packed, we will focus on the evacuation process. As the fire conditions change, the primary concern of emergency management will be to disseminate all of the pertinent incident information to the right people, and in a timely manner. Rural residents will need to have answers to some essential questions: Where is the fire? Is someone coming to me, or do I need to evacuate? Which way should I go? Where will we stay?

The number of people affected by a wildland conflagration could be instantly overwhelming as 911 dispatch attempts to collect information from observers and send fire units to the proper location. Citizens may have difficulty calling 911 for information as the situation unfolds, but we still have ways of communicating with you. You can register up for the Linn-Benton Alert notification services at: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085613276#/login>

These mass media communications will allow emergency management to deliver critical messages to the broadest number of citizens, in the most efficient manner possible. Messages can be targeted to residents in specific geographic locations



EVACUATION PLANNING IN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE CONT.

providing details of safe evacuation routes, evacuation standby locations (a safe temporary holding area), or advisories to shelter in place.

Evacuation Do's:

- Critically pre-plan your primary escape route
- Have at least one alternative pre-planned escape route heading in the opposite direction of your primary route.
- Tune into a local radio station, or mass media subscription, and listen for instructions.
- Follow the emergency instructions regarding evacuation routes. Your primary route may not be the safest.
- Obey orders of law enforcement and fire department officials.
- Drive with your headlights on for visibility and safety.
- Drive calmly, obey the rules of the road and pay special attention to fire trucks.

Evacuation Don'ts:

- Do not block access to roadways for emergency vehicles or other evacuees.
- Do not drive over fire hose.
- Do not abandon vehicles on the roadway.
- Do not stop to let pets have a break.

If you are caught by fire while evacuating DO NOT ATTEMPT TO OUTFRAN IT. You are safer and more likely to survive by doing the following:

- Move your vehicle to bare ground or areas where vegetation is sparse.
- Face the wind and close all doors, vents and windows.
- Turn engine off, leave lights on.
- Lie on the floor and cover yourself with a jacket or blanket. The fuel tank of the car will normally not explode.
- Stay calm and remain in your vehicle until after the flame front passes or until you are forced out of your vehicle by toxic fumes.
- If you are forced out of your vehicle, cover with a wool blanket and lie flat under the vehicle.

After Evacuation

- Check in at an emergency shelter. Whether you stay there or not, your checking in will help others know that you are safe.
- Take pets to a Pet Evacuation Center.
- Do not attempt to re-enter the fire area until it is declared safe by Law Enforcement

Sheltering in Place

During some wildfire events, you may not be able to evacuate in time and you will be faced with no other option than to shelter-in-place. Careful planning and action on your part can help protect you during a wildfire.



EVACUATION PLANNING IN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE CONT.

As the Fire Approaches

- Wear protective clothing to shield you from heat, embers and flames: sturdy shoes, long-sleeved shirt and pants (wool or cotton), hat, handkerchief, and light colored goggles.
- Close windows and doors to the house to prevent sparks and embers from blowing inside. Close all doors inside the house to prevent draft. Open the damper on your fireplace to help stabilize outside-inside pressure, but close the fireplace screen so sparks will not ignite the room.
- Take down your drapes and curtains. Close all blinds.
- Fill all bathtubs, sinks and other containers with water.
- Back your car into the garage, keeping the windows closed and keys in the ignition. Close garage doors and disconnect the automatic garage door opener (so you can still remove your car in the event of a power failure).
- Place your to-go bag inside your car in the garage for quick departure, if necessary.
- Turn on lights in every room and porch lights.
- Turn off pilot lights.
- As the fire front approaches, STAY INSIDE, take a deep breath and remain calm.

Some Facts about Sheltering in Place That You Should Know:

- Sheltering-in-place is always a LAST RESORT alternative if you cannot evacuate in time.
- A fire within sight or smell is a threat.
- More people are injured and killed in the open than in houses.
- Once embers start falling, it may be too late to evacuate.
- Remember, no matter how hot it is inside your home, it is ALWAYS worse outside. Stay inside!
- You must have 30-100 feet of space around your home (defensible space) that is free of any combustible vegetation and materials that can spread fire to your home.

A review of wildfire evacuation scenarios underscores the importance of having a well thought-out evacuation plan that accounts for a range of contingencies. It is important for communities to have a specific evacuation plan with a target destination (or several destinations) that is shared with, understood by, and practiced by the community.

OAK CREEK VALLEY FIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING - ANN EISSINGER, OAK CREEK VALLEY RESIDENT

Residents of the Oak Creek Valley are organizing in an effort to better prepare for wildfire. Over the course of the past five months, a core group of residents and agency representatives have formed to address the threat of wildfire.

The Oak Creek Valley, located directly west of Corvallis, is a predominately forest and natural open-space area containing about 326 households concentrated in 11 neighborhoods. Considering the fuel-laden landscape and the fact that there is only one main road in and out of the valley, the Oak Creek community is particularly vulnerable to the threat of wildfire, a classic wildland-urban interface situation.

In order to become better prepared, the Oak Creek Valley Wildfire Preparedness and Response Plan is a citizen led effort to organize, educate, and prepare the Oak Creek community for wildfire response through a coordinated process with government agencies, land owners and neighborhoods. The goals of this effort include:

1. Establish a community-wide communication and collaborative network for emergency planning and response.

OAK CREEK VALLEY FIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANNING CONT.

2. Work cooperatively with agencies and large-land owners.
3. Reduce fire risk where possible.
4. Improve access for emergency responders.
5. Ensure adequate water storage for fire suppression.
6. Create an evacuation plan with evacuation routes suitable for the population.
7. Build mutually supportive and resilient neighborhoods.
8. Involve all residents in educational programs and community based projects.



To date we have collected pertinent information, toured the area with emergency and fire officials, and identified evacuation routes. We have also, defined the neighborhoods in our community and acquired representatives from most neighborhoods and large landowners to participate in this process, and to create a functional communication network with all of our residents, land managers and agency representatives include Corvallis Fire Department, Benton County Emergency Services and Oregon Department of Forestry.

It is our expectation that over the next few months we will gather the necessary information to compile a fire preparedness plan document for the Oak Creek community. This will contain baseline information about our community and area, maps, current fire risk issues, evacuation options and response protocol. It will also contain recommendations for improvements and guidelines for our residents. Once the plan is drafted this spring we will call for a community-wide meeting to present the plan and discuss next steps.

If you live in the Oak Creek area and have not been notified about this planning process and would like to participate, or want to know more, please contact the volunteer Oak Creek Community Fire Preparedness Coordinator Ann Eissinger at ann.eissinger@gmail.com.



SMOKE ALARMS AT HOME - CARMEN WESTFALL, FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. Where there is fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS - JASON DENNIS, FIREFIGHTER

As a general rule, firefighting should be left to professional firefighters.

Fire extinguishers are meant for putting out small fires or used to help escape from the area, not firefighting large out-of-control fires. Only those who are trained or know how to use a portable fire extinguisher should use one.

Most fire extinguishers operate using the following P.A.S.S. technique:

PULL... Pull the pin. This will also break the tamper seal.

AIM... Aim low, pointing the extinguisher nozzle (or its horn or hose) at the base of the fire.

NOTE: Do not touch the plastic discharge horn on CO2 extinguishers, it gets very cold and may damage skin.

SQUEEZE... Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent.

SWEEP... Sweep from side to side at the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Watch the area. If the fire re-ignites, repeat steps 2 - 4.

Before trying to put out or contain a fire, be sure that:

- You know how to use the fire extinguisher and it is the correct type.
- Everyone else is leaving the home and someone is calling the fire department.
- The fire is small, confined, and not spreading.
- You have a clear escape route and will not be overcome by smoke or toxic fumes.

If the fire does not go out after using one extinguisher, back out of the area, close the door if possible, and get safely outside and call 9-1-1.

An aerosol fire spray is no substitute for a fire extinguisher, their shelf life is only 3 years and there is no pressure gauge to ensure that the aerosol sized can is charged and ready to use. They can be an addition to your household fire prevention stock but are only useful if within arm's reach when a fire first starts. The aerosol can has limited distance and must come in contact with the fire in order to extinguish the fire. A UL listed dry chemical extinguisher has a further reach and can be effective when applied in the direction of the fire.

As a general rule, where portable fire extinguishers are installed, a person should not have to travel more than 40 feet (12 meters) to reach one and never have to travel up or down stairs to reach it.

Where portable fire extinguishers are installed in the home, follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.

If you have portable fire extinguishers, inspect them once a month and have them serviced annually by certified personnel. Check to see if your fire extinguisher is under any U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls.

**Extinguisher
P.A.S.S
Technique:
Pull
Aim
Squeeze
Sweep**



BURNING REGULATIONS WITHIN THE CORVALLIS RURAL PROTECTION DISTRICT

Air pollution created by open burning can irritate eyes and lungs, obscure visibility, soil nearby surfaces, create annoying odors or pose other nuisance and health threats. Because of problems created by this activity, open burning is restricted in selected parts of the state based on population growth and availability of alternatives. If you choose to burn, you are responsible for any fire, smoke or odors created from open burning and for any damage that results from your fire.

As it relates to Open Burning regulations, the term "nuisance" means a substantial and unreasonable interference with another's use and enjoyment of real property, or the substantial and unreasonable invasion of a right common to members of the general public. If an open burning activity creates a nuisance in the form of odor or smoke to a neighboring property, you may be ordered to extinguish the fire.

Burning Regulations Specific to the Benton County-Corvallis Open Burn Control Area.

This area is defined by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as any property within 6-miles of the City of Corvallis boundary. Yard debris are the only materials authorized for unpermitted open burning within the Benton County-Corvallis Open Burn Control Area.

Yard Debris - Includes wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs or plants from the real property immediately adjacent to a dwelling of not more than four family living units so long as such debris remains on the property of origin. Once yard debris is removed from the property of origin, it becomes commercial waste. **The burning of trees, logs, and stumps is considered demolition waste, and requires a DEQ letter permit.**

Yard debris may only be open burned on "burn days" which are authorized by DEQ during the spring (March 1st through June 15th) and fall (October 1st through December 15th). You do not need a DEQ letter permit but must receive permission from the Corvallis Fire Department.

If a homeowner would like to burn any materials other than yard debris as defined above, they must obtain a DEQ letter permit. A DEQ "letter permit" means an authorization issued pursuant to OAR 340-264-0180 to burn select materials at a defined site and under certain conditions.

A DEQ LETTER PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO BURN THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF MATERIAL:

Industrial - Includes the burning of waste, including process waste, produced as the direct result of any manufacturing or industrial process.

Commercial - Includes the burning of any waste like:

Waste material from offices, wholesale or retail yards and outlets, warehouses, restaurants, mobile home parks and dwellings containing more than four dwelling units, for example apartments, condominiums, hotels, motels or dormitories

Any material not otherwise covered under other the other waste classifications

Construction Waste - Includes the burning of waste material generally used for, resulting from or produced by a building or construction project. This could include wood, lumber, paper, crating and packing materials processed for or used during cleanup of a construction site.

Demolition Waste - Includes the burning of waste material resulting from or produced by the complete or partial destruction or tearing down of any man-made structure, or the clearing of any site for land improvement or cleanup *including trees, logs, and stumps*. Land clearing waste is typically considered demolition waste except when it is included in the definitions of agricultural waste, yard debris or slash.

Examples of land clearing waste include the removal of trees, brush, logs, stumps, debris or man-made structures for the purpose of site clean up or site preparation.



BURNING REGULATIONS WITHIN THE CORVALLIS RURAL PROTECTION DISTRICT CONT.

Domestic - Includes household waste material such as paper, cardboard, clothing, yard debris (wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs or plants) or other material generated in or around a dwelling of four-or-fewer family living units, or on the property immediately adjacent to the dwelling.

Slash - Includes forest debris or woody vegetation to be burned that is related to the management of forestland used for growing and harvesting timber, not otherwise regulated by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Slash burning is defined as the burning of debris from logging, and is limited to burning on forest lands for forest management. Slash burning requires a Notification of Operation, Slash Registration (with fees), and a Burn Plan prior to burning. Contact the ODF for information and slash burning permits.



Agricultural Burning – Agricultural burning is limited to genuine agricultural waste. Agricultural waste is material generated by an agricultural operation that uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit by raising, harvesting and selling crops or raising and selling animals (including poultry), or the products of animal husbandry. Prohibited materials cannot be burned, even in an agricultural setting. The agricultural activity might include clearing of land, but does not include the construction and use of dwellings. Burning associated with a dwelling is considered domestic burning, backyard burning, or burning of yard debris and is not part of the farming operation.

Recreational Burning

A recreational fire is defined in the Oregon Fire Code as “an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbecue grill or barbecue pit, and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. A recreational fire is used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.” The Oregon DEQ does not allow burning of materials other than dry natural wood in a recreational fire.

Burning the following materials is illegal anytime, anywhere in Oregon:

· Asbestos, asphalt · Painted wood and wood treated with creosote or pentachlorophenol · Automotive parts · Dead animals · Plastic & rubber products including tires · Waste oil and petroleum treated and related materials · Wet garbage & food waste · Any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors. · Industrial, construction, and demolition waste (A special DEQ letter permit is required to burn these materials)

Remember to

- **Get the required permits.** Contact the authority having jurisdiction for the category of open burning you would like to undertake, and obtain the proper permits and associated conditions prior to any open burning.
- **Check weather conditions.** Prior to igniting your burn pile, call the Corvallis Fire Department Burn Advisory Line (541-757-6971) to determine if it is an authorized burn day.
- **Constantly attend your fire.** A responsible person must constantly attend all open burnings until the fire is extinguished.
- **Daylight Hours.** Open Burning is only allowed during “daylight hours”, Defined by OAR 340-264-0030 as “the time between 7:30 a.m. and two hours before sunset”.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN RRV—WILL KALENIUS, STATION 6 LIEUTENANT

Our Rural Resident Volunteers (RRVs) juggle school, fire department duties, and the other demands of their personal lives and professional development. RRVs are deployed in 4 teams of up to 3 people, and placed on a rotating 24 hours on, 72 hours off shift schedule. This enables our staff to provide nearly 24/7 coverage.

Here is an example of a “day in the life of an RRV”:

0630 – RRV Kienzle’s alarm clock goes off. Not sure why he won’t punch snooze. Oh, he must have been up at 0600 and out the door to Salem for Medic School. Guess I’m up now.

0640 – Making coffee in the kitchen. Unloading the dishwasher.

0650 – I’m in uniform and in the apparatus bay for daily passdown. I’m driving Engine 136 today, so I meet up with yesterday’s apparatus operator. Fuel is at 7/8th. We need more B Foam. Water tank is full. Apparently Water Tender 146 needs to go into the shop for maintenance tomorrow. We are low on crunchy peanut butter and jam for the house fund, so we will have to swing by Station 1 later for those.

0655 – LT rolls in on his bike. He’s upset that the grass looks a little long and that we didn’t bring in the recycling bin quickly enough yesterday. Classic. But, we detailed the kitchen last shift, so that might make him happy!

0700 – tones go off, signifying the start of the shift. We are on duty! We get to work on rig checks and station chores.

0855 – halfway through a bowl of oatmeal, our tones go off. Medical call on Burgundy. We zip out of the station in 136 and provide care to a sick patient. The ambulance from Station 3 comes and transports the patient to Good Sam.

0930 – I switch into street clothes and leave the Station for my Chemistry class at OSU.

1200 – I’m back at the station, and back on duty.

1230 – We get called to a “Smoke Investigation” call out on Pettibone Drive for someone burning yard debris. We interface with the caller and the responsible party and have the Battalion Chief from Station 1 come out to help us navigate the Burn Regulations.

1330 – LT meets with us in the Conference Room and we go over some Hydraulics and Fireground Pump Operation equations. Our new Firefighter is going through the Apparatus Operator Training Program and has a test next week. Do you know the equation for finding the gallonage of a smooth bore nozzle? ($GPM = 29.7 \times D^2 \times \text{square root of the nozzle pressure}$)

1430 – We get toned to an MVA at Hwy 20 and Granger. One patient is pinned under the steering wheel, and we must use our hydraulic extrication tools to cut the car apart and get the patient out. This takes a few minutes, but soon we have the patient in the back of Station 3’s ambulance and they are off to the hospital.

1600 – Time to work out. We all do our best to work out every day, whether we are on duty or off. We take being fit pretty seriously. Besides, one sure way to get on LT’s bad side is to avoid that weight room.

1800 – Evening station duties and dinner. I have a Biology test tomorrow so I’m hoping to get some studying in. LT has been hounding me about the Departmental Operating Guidelines around incident response so I’d like to study those as well. He wants me to start the check off process so I can be a Crew Leader, and there is this big task book to complete.

1815 – LT hops on his bike and heads home. He only works weekdays, not overnight like us. I’m still driver on 136, our new guy in the station, and one of the more experienced RRVs takes the Crew Leader seat.

1900 – It has been a hot and windy summer day, and the evening wind has sure picked up. We get toned to a wildfire threatening structures out in the Jackson Creek area. Since many of the RRVs are in the Station, I drive a full rig in 136 (the engine), 2 guys hop in 166 (the wildland fire truck), and another driver 146 (the water tender). We find heavy brush on fire and strong winds pushing the fire up towards large homes on the hill. Our Crew Leader makes a plan to protect the home and attack the flank of the fire from a safe posture. We ask the next in units to access the hillside via Brownley Heights Drive. Soon after, the Crews from Station 1, 2, and 3 arrive, along with the Battalion Chief. We are able to knock the fire

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN RRV CONT.

down and spend the next couple hours mopping up and putting out hot spots.

2200 – Finally back at the Station. We have lots of cleaning up to do though. We have to get the rigs all restored as well. Then, I gotta study for that Bio test tomorrow!

Midnight – Gonna get some sleep. Big test tomorrow. Gosh darn it, I didn't get those DOGs reviewed either. I'm gonna hear it from LT tomorrow. Maybe after my test I'm try to review those.

0145 – We are toned out for a Lift Assist on Lester. We find an individual who has fallen out of bed...isn't hurt, just needs help back into bed. We use a blanket and make a cradle to life him up carefully, check for injuries, and tuck him back into bed. All good.

0450 – Toned out for a possible structure fire at a home close to OSU campus. We rush out to the bay, throw on our gear quickly, and hop into 136. I make sure to drive very carefully, as we are all excited as we drive down Highway 99. Once we get to about Circle, we realize the other stations are all out on medical calls. We are gonna be first in! We find a dumpster on fire next to an older home on Jackson Avenue. The fire is extending up the siding. We pull pre-connected hose and spray water to put the fire out. The Battalion Chief arrives. We tell him we have it all handled, and we ensure the fire is totally out, by ripping off siding and spraying more water and foam. After investigating the cause and talking with the homeowner, we head back to the Station. We stop at the nearest hydrant to fill up our water tank.

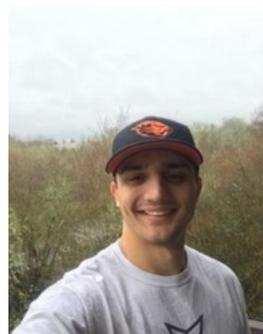
0650 – I meet up with the next day's crew for passdown. Fuel is at $\frac{3}{4}$, water level is full. They will finish washing hose from the wildfire yesterday. The rubber bumper line is all cleaned from this morning's fire. I'm off to OSU for my test. As I'm leaving the Station, LT is pulling in on his bike. "How was your night?" he asks. "Dozing?" I reply, "Not us LT. We were livin' the dream!"

Alumni Watch

Jimmy Stone and Jacob Partney: While serving in the CRFPD, both Jimmy and Jacob pursued Paramedic School at Chemeketa Community College. After obtaining licensure in Winter 2017, Jacob resigned from our program in good standing and went to work in Salem for Falck Ambulance. Jimmy resigned in good standing in the spring and completed Paramedic School that summer. Both were hired by the Corvallis Fire Department in September 2017. After completing their year-long Probationary Training with CFD, both were assigned to Station 2 as Firefighter-Paramedics. Jimmy is on C Shift, Jacob is on A shift.



Jimmy Stone



Jacob Partney

Did you Know?

Station 6 provides Residential Wildfire Assessments in the CRFPD? We will come to your property and provide education on defensible space and recommendation on what you and your neighbors can do to prevent the spread of wildfire. Please contact us to arrange a time.

WHO ARE YOUR BOARD MEMBERS, AND WHEN DO THEY MEET?

The Board generally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Locke Station. The meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to come and learn more about your fire district.

The Board members are:

Bob Conder, Chairman
Bob.Conder@corvallisrfd.com

George Mears, Vice Chairman
George.Mears@corvallisrfd.com

Steve Oda, Treasurer
Steve.Oda@corvallisrfd.com

Alex Polikoff, Secretary
Alex.Polikoff@corvallisrfd.com

Frank Perdicaro, Member at Large
Frank.Perdicaro@corvallisrfd.com



SIGN IT SO THEY SEE YOU!

Order an address marker to help visitors and emergency personnel locate your home.

Signs will be placed as soon as ground conditions allow.

FIREMED

FireMed is a way to defray or lessen costs of medically necessary ambulance transports. Learn more about the FireMed program and complete an application to become a member.

CORVALLIS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
544 NW Lewisburg Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330
541-766-6476
CRFPD Burn Advisory 541-757-6971
<http://www.corvallisrfd.com/>

CORVALLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT
400 NW Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330
541-766-6961
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